

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 09951 241300Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR SAXBE'S MEETING WITH MRS GANDHI

1. AMBASSADOR MET WITH PM GANDHI FOR FRIENDLY, 25- MINUTE CONVERSATIONAL MONOLOGUE IN HER PARLIAMENT HOUSE OFFICE JULY 23. MRS GANDHI LOOKED SOMEWHAT AGED FROM FEW MONTHS AGO, BUT WAS CALM AND APPARENTLY IN GOOD HEALTH WITH NO EXTERNAL SIGNS OF STRAIN.

2. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT WE APPRECIATED HER REMARKS TO AMERICAN TEACHERS RECENTLY ON HER WISH TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE US AND NOTED THAT WE WERE SURE SHE WAS ENDEAVORING TO DISCOURAGE EFFORTS BY SOME PEOPLE TO IMPLY THAT THE US WAS INVOLVED WITH THE DOMESTIC INDIAN POLITICAL OPPOSITION. HE EMPHASIZED THAT WHEN HE WAS ATTORNEY-GENERAL HE MADE IT A POINT TO FIND OUT WHAT THE FBI WAS DOING, AND THAT WHEN HE CAME TO INDIA AS AMBASSADOR HE HAD MADE THE SAME EFFORTS REGARDING CIA ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS CONSEQUENTLY FULLY CONFIDENT HE COULD REEMPHASIZE THAT THERE WAS NO INTERFERENCE IN INDIAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

HEHAD SEEN THE DIRECTOR OF CIA ON HIS RECENT TRIP HOME AND HAD TOLD BOTH MR COLBY AND THE SECRETARY THAT HE WOULD RESIGN AS AMBASSADOR IF THERE WAS SUCH INTERFERENCE. PARTICULARLY AS A RESULT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON CIA ANY PAST FREE REIN ON CIA WHICH MIGHT

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 09951 241300Z

HAVE EXISTED WOULD NOW DISAPPEAR. (THE PRIME MINISTER SMILED AND OBSERVED, "WE DON'T WANT YOU TO RESIGN.")

3. AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT THE USG HAD NO INTENTION OF GIVING AID AND COMFORT TO ANYONE CAUSING PROBLEMS TO INDIA, AND THAT THE US WELCOMED EFFORTS BY THE PM TO RESTRAIN IRRESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS FROM MAKING ATTACKS ON THE US. THE US WAS NOT ABLE TO CONTROL THE US PRESS AND IF ACCUSATIONS ABOUT THE US WERE MADE IN INDIA, THEY WOULD INEVITABLY BE PRINTED AND BE USED BY INDIA'S CRITICS IN THE US TO ARGUE THEIR CASE WITH THE SECRETARY AND THE PRESIDENT. SUCH ATTACKS, THEREFORE, COULD NOT BE IN THE INTEREST OF ANYONE WISHING INDO-US RELATIONS WELL.

4. NOTING HIS SATISFACTION THAT THE SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR KAUL HAD MET IN WASHINGTON THE AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE INDO-US JOINT COMMISSION CONSIDER ALL PROBLEMS AND AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. REFERRING TO THE WHO-NIH SPONSORED "MOSQUITO PROJECT" WHICH THE PM NODDED AND SAID SHE WAS AWARE OF), THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED THE NEED TO AVOID A RECURRANCE OF SIMILAR PROBLEMS. NOT ALL PROJECTS AND AGREEMENTS COULD BE DISCUSSED AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, BUT THE JOINT COMMISSION THROUGH ITS SUBCOMMISSIONS SHOULD CONSIDER AND AGREE ON ALL SUCH AGREEMENTS IN ORDER TO AVOID FUTURE TROUBLE. (THE PRIME MINISTER MURMURED, "MMMM.")

5. AMBASSADOR MENTIONED UPCOMING VISITS OF SENATOR EAGLETON AND CONGRESSMAN CEDERBERG AND OBSERVED HE HAD CALLED THEIR ATTENTION TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF RUPEES STILL OWNED BY THE USG AND WHICH THE US WOULD LIKE CONGRESS TO PERMIT TO BE USED FOR PROJECTS OF MUTUAL BENEFIT, INCLUDING MEDICAL SCHOOLS AND SIMILAR USES. (MRS GANDHI NODDED, "GOOD.")

6. THE AMBASSADOR OBSERVED HE WISHED TO CALL MRS GANDHI'S ATTENTION PARTICULARLY TO THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS IN MINNEAPOLIS A FEW DAYS EARLIER ON THE UN.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 NEW DE 09951 241300Z

HE EMPHASIZED THE DANGERS LURKING FOR THE UN IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WERE TO BEGIN ATTEMPTING TO EXPEL

MEMBER STATES AND IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND OTHER UN CONFERENCES WERE TURNED INTO OCCASIONS FOR PRIMARILY ATTACKING THE US ON ISSUES RELATING TO PRODUCING AND CONSUMING

NATIONS. HE SAID THAT HE WAS SURE THAT ONCE INDIA WAS ABLE TO BREAK THROUGH TO A SOLUTION OF ITS FOOD PROBLEMS IT WOULD ITSELF BECOME A MAJOR EXPORT-ING NATION AND THAT EVEN NOW INDIA AND THE US SHARED MANY COMMON CONCERNS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PRO-BLEMS. IT WAS PRIMARILY IMPORTANT TO BE SURE THAT THE UN REMAINED ALIVE AS AN IMPORTANT FORUM IN WHICH ALL STATES ADVANCE AND DISCUSS THEIR POSITIONS, AND NOT FAIL LIKE THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS. (MRS. GANDHI COMMENTED, "IF IT FAILS, NEW ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE FORMED TO TAKE ITS PLACE.")

7. THE AMBASSADO AGREES WITH THE PM, NOTING THERE WOULD BE A WHOLE COLLECTION OF SUBSTITUTE ORGANIZATIONS, EACH REPRESENTING DIFFERENT GROUPS, BUT THE POINT OF THE UN WOULD HAVE BEEN LOST. (MRS GANDHI ASKED, "WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM THE UN?") AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT WHILE THE UN MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO FUNC-TION EFFECTIVELY AS A POLITICAL INSTRUMENT FOR "PEACE-KEEPING", IT WAS VITAL AS AN INSTITUTION FOR EXPOSING PROBLEMS, FOR DISCUSSING THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF MANKIND, AND AS AN ARENA FOR CENSURE BY EXPOSURE, BUT NOT BY VOTE. THE UN COULD NOT ENFORCE

ITS WILL BY KICKING STATES OUT THAT A MAJORITY HAPPENED NOT TO LIKE. THE AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT HE KNEW FROM READING MRS GANDHI'S STATEMENTS THAT SHE SHARED MANY OF THESE SAME VIEWS. (NOTE: IN AN INTER-VIEW WITH THE MEXICAN JOURNAL SIEMPRE, JULY 8, MRS GANDHI SAID, "IT IS OUR REALIZATION THAT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD HAVE UNIVERSALITY OF MEMBERSHIP. THAT IS WHY WE PLEADED FOR CHINA'S SEATING IN THE UN EVEN WHEN CHINA WAS HOSTILE TO US.")

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 NEW DE 09951 241300Z

8. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT HAD BECOME SO POPULAR EVEN ALIGNED STATES LIKE NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA AND ROMANIA WISHED TO JOIN. (THE PM NODDED AGREEMENT AND SAID, "MANY ARE CLAIMING NON-ALIGNMENT. THE GROUP HAS GOTTEN SO LARGE, THERE IS SO MUCH PRESSURE--IT IS VERY DIFFICULT. EVEN THE ALGIERS MEETING WAS SO LARGE AND THERE WAS SOME CONFRONTATION.")

9. HAVING UTTERED BETWEEN 33 AND 50 WORDS DURING THE EXCHANGE (DEPENDING OM WHETHER YOU COUNT "MMMS" AND PREPOSITIONS), THE PRIME MINISTER SMILED, SAID SOME FRIENDLY WORDS ABOUT A DINNER A FEW NIGHTS EARLIER WHERE SHE SAID SHE WAS SORRY NOT TO HAVE SEEN THE AMBASSADOR IN TIME TO COME OVER AND SAY "HELLO",

INQUIRED ABOUT MRS SAXBE, AND SAID GOOD-BYE.

10. IT WAS, FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF AMBASSADOR
MOYNIHAN OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS, A FAIRLY TYPICAL
PERFORMANCE. SHE LISTENED. IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT
THE MESSAGES WE WERE TRANSMITTING GOT THROUGH. WE
WILL WATCH AND SEE IF ANYTHING HAPPENS.

SAXBE

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